

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2014-15 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 2.4 Support for Child Care System **Question No: SQ15-000219**

Topic: Child Care

Hansard page: Written

Senator Lines, Sue asked:

These questions relate to a story by Samantha Maiden that appeared in The Sunday Telegraph on 1 February 2015, titled Childcare rebate scheme is failing, with big business facing 1.5 per cent tax levy to pay for reform, the story said:

"But in a move that will anger big business, the Abbott Government will ask Australia's 3000 largest companies to help pay for the overhaul by keeping in place the 1.5 per cent levy that was designed to pay for paid parental leave."

And:

"The Sunday Telegraph understands the \$3 billion paid parental levy will remain in place to help pay for childcare reform. Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Kate Carnell slammed the decision."

1) Did the Minister or his office provide information to the journalist that led to the assertion that the Government would keep the levy and divert the money into child care? If so, what information was provided, by whom, and on what date?

2) Did the Department provide any information or advice to the Minister's office or to the journalist in relation to this story, either before or after publication? If so, please outline the nature of the advice, to whom it was provided, and when.

3) If the assertion in the story was wrong or inaccurate, what steps did the Department and/or the Minister's office make to have a correction or clarification published?

4) Did the Department provide any advice to the Minister subsequent to the publication of the story regarding its accuracy and/or the source of information the journalist relied on?

Answer:

- 1) This is a question for the Minister.
- 2) No.
- 3) The Department has not taken any steps in relation to this article.
- 4) No.